



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
May 2, 2008

For More Information, Contact:
Becky Bailey
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.4526
E-mail: bbailey@nd.gov

Governor Hoeven Proclaims *School Nurse Day* in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. – Governor John Hoeven has proclaimed Wednesday, May 7, 2008, as *School Nurse Day* in North Dakota. The national theme for this year's event is "School Nurses in Action: Transforming School Communities."

School Nurse Day honors professional nurses practicing in educational settings. School nurses help children learn by assessing student health status, identifying vision and hearing problems that impact learning, making referrals, delivering emergency care, administering medications and vaccines, performing health-care procedures, planning for disaster preparedness, and providing health counseling and support for wellness programs.

The National Association of School Nurses recommends one nurse for every 750 well students. The recommendations for the ratio decrease as student health needs increase. Currently in North Dakota, there is one school nurse for every 3,068 students.

"Children learn better when they are healthy," said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. "*School Nurse Day* provides an opportunity to celebrate how much school nurses do to keep kids healthy and ready to learn."

"School nurses play a vital role in advancing the well-being, academic success and lifetime achievement of students," said Becky Bailey, director of Child and Adolescent Health Services for the North Dakota Department of Health. "A full appreciation of how much school nurses do to keep kids healthy is a key component of *School Nurse Day* celebrations. The Department of Health encourages schools and communities to join with their school nurses in celebrating this important day."

For more information, contact Becky Bailey, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4526.

Please note: Proclamation follows.

-- more --

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@state.nd.us

Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

PROCLAMATION
SCHOOL NURSE DAY
May 7, 2008

WHEREAS, North Dakota children are our most valuable resource and will become North Dakota's leaders of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, school nurses have a multi-faceted role within the school setting, one that supports the physical, mental, emotional and social health of students and their success in the learning process; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota's school nurses are dedicated healthcare professionals who provide direct healthcare to students and staff, leadership for the provision of health services, and screening and referral for health conditions; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing for students' immediate health needs, school nurses promote healthy lifestyles and a healthy school environment; and

WHEREAS, school nurses serve in a leadership role for health policies and programs and as a liaison between families, schools, communities and health-care providers; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans are encouraged to promote the good health of our children and recognize school nurses for their contributions to the health and safety of our students; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 7, 2008, as **SCHOOL NURSE DAY** in the state of North Dakota.

John Hoeven
Governor

-- 30 --

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.